

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 005061

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

EU Warns RTUK on Kurdish Broadcasting - Hurriyet (8/27)
Bardakoglu: We Could Send Imams to US - Milliyet (8/27)
Myers: If US Leaves Iraq, Turkey Could Become Unstable -
Milliyet (8/28)
Matt Bryza: US, Turkey will Resolve PKK Issue Together -
Aksam (8/27)
Iraqi Constitution Signed without Sunni Approval - Sabah
Khalilzad: New Iraqi Constitution Advances Democracy -
Hurriyet
Conditional Greek Support For Turkey's EU Accession -
Milliyet
US Professor: Not Enough Evidence on Armenian Genocide -
Milliyet
Suicide Bombing in Israel - Aksam
'TRNC' Plane Flies Directly to Baku - Turkiye
Signing On To Civil War In Iraq -- Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Turkish Hacker Arrested in Adana - Radikal (8/28)
Critical Week in EU Process - Cumhuriyet
Fait Accompli on Iraqi Constitution - Radikal
Protesters Call for Incirlik Air Base to be Closed - Radikal
Iraqi Constitution Approved Despite Sunni Opposition - Zaman

BRIEFING

Religious Affairs Comments about DAS Bryza Visit: "Aksam"
reported over the weekend on visiting US Deputy Assistant
Secretary Matt Bryza's meeting with the deputy head of the

SIPDIS

Religious Affairs Directorate, Mehmet Gormez. The main
subject discussed at the meeting was the possibility that
the US and the EU could be involved with the training of
Muslim clerics. Bryza noted that many Muslim clerics hold
anti-Western views, and asked Gormez whether training by the
US or EU would be feasible. Gormez reacted coolly to the
idea, saying that it would be like 'our theology faculties
giving training in Christianity for priests.' He added that
'we would not find it right for people from other countries
or other religions providing training in Islam.' Bryza
explained that the US appreciates the way the Diyanet trains
religious personnel in Turkey and serves Muslims abroad.
Bryza characterized Diyanet officials as 'peace emissaries,'
and said the US is interested in learning how such training
is done and under what conditions the Diyanet sends its
personnel abroad. Ormez denied that the discussion with
Bryza was connected with the US-backed Broader Middle East
and North Africa Initiative (BMENAI). "Yeni Safak" quotes
Gormez as saying that the Diyanet 'doesn't work for the
United States, and doesn't support international projects by
other countries in the field of religion.' 'The US official
asked us how we trained our imams, and we explained it to
him. There was no discussion about the BMENAI, Iraq,
terrorism, or anything like that,' he added.

Kurdish Broadcasting: "Hurriyet" reported over the weeeeknd
that the EU General Secretariat has sent a letter to
Turkey's Supreme Broadcasting Board (RTUK) urging the body
to grant permission to local and regional broadcasters who
have applied to start broadcasts in the Kurdish language.
The letter reportedly urged RTUK to accelerate the process
so that permission is given before October 3, when the EU is
scheduled to begin accession talks with Turkey.

One Dead in Southeast Riot: One protester was killed and 20
others injured in clashes with police in the southeastern
city of Batman yesterday. The trouble began when a group
of citizens marched toward the Batman public hospital to
claim the bodies of 6 PKK militants who had been killed in

clashes with military forces in the surrounding mountains late last week. Violence broke out when police attempted to disperse the marchers. Five policemen were also injured in the riot, which followed a protest by 2,000 citizens in the nearby town of Besiri the previous day. The protesters in Besiri called for an end to Turkish military operations against the PKK.

First Direct Flight from 'TRNC' to Baku: Papers report that Turkish Cypriot Airlines flew from Ercan Airport in northern Cyprus directly to the Azerbaijani capital of Baku yesterday, marking the first-ever direct flight from the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' to a foreign country other than Turkey.

Turkish Computer Hacker Caught in Adana: Turkish police announced on Friday that a suspected computer hacker living in the southern city of Adana was arrested in an operation carried out in close cooperation with the FBI. According to a police statement, the Turkish hacker, 23-year-old Atilla Ekici, was allegedly involved in the writing and spreading of the "Zotop" virus, which caused enormous damage to computer systems in major news outlets in the United States. The joint operation also included authorities in Morocco, who arrested a Moroccan suspected of conspiring with Ekici to spread the virus. Weekend papers report that Ekici has denied the charges, saying that he 'was compiling a data base' but not involved in hacking computer systems or spreading the virus.

Anti-American Protests in Adana, Mersin: "Radikal" reports that protests organized by the anti-war 'Iraq Coordination Group' that had started in Istanbul on August 26 ended at Incirlik yesterday. Around 800 protesters gathered in Mersin and traveled to Adana, but were not allowed into Incirlik. The crowd chanted anti-US slogans at the entrance to Incirlik Airbase and called on all American bases, including Incirlik, to be closed.

New Iraqi Constitution: Papers report that the Iraqi Parliament has read and accepted the new draft constitution, but without taking a parliamentary vote or securing approval from the Arab Sunni delegates. "Hurriyet" quotes US Ambassador Khalilzad as claiming that the constitution will guarantee Iraq's unity on the way to federalism. Khalilzad said the new constitution will advance democracy, and he described the document as 'more advanced than anything else in the Muslim world.' "Turkiye" reports that 15 Sunni negotiators announced their opposition to the new constitution. "Cumhuriyet" reports that one Sunni official claimed that the constitution was prepared by the United States. "Sabah" characterized the new constitution as a 'recipe for civil war.'

General Myers Comments: "Milliyet" reported over the weekend that that following his visits to Iraq and Afghanistan, US Chief of Staff General Myers told reporters that if the US withdraws from Iraq now, the terrorist leader Zarkavi will declare a victory for al-Qaida, and that instability will spread to neighboring countries, including Turkey. General Myers claimed that al-Qaida would then continue to spread terror throughout the region in its efforts to reestablish the caliphate.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"The US Should not Pull Out"
Gungor Mengi commented in the mass appeal "Vatan" (8/29): "Stability in Iraq seems unlikely with or without the approval of the new constitution. The ongoing terrorism in Iraq has the potential to lead the country to a civil war. On the other hand, the US is facing growing pressure from its own public to pull out. A US withdrawal from Iraq would be a dangerous development that would negatively affect Turkey as well. US Chief of General Staff General Myers emphasized the high risks of a withdrawal over the weekend, and he is absolutely right. A pullout of the American military would provide a victory to Al-Qaida, which would cause a series of problems including economic instability and a broadening wave of terrorism throughout the region. . From the beginning, Turkey did its best to persuade the US not to enter Iraq. But Turkey's current national interests require that we encourage the US to stay in Iraq until the establishment of a stable Iraqi administration. We should also hope that the US reputation for being able to demolish but not able to rebuild will not be repeated in Iraq."

"Confused Minds"
The leftist-nationalist "Cumhuriyet" carried this op-ed (8/29): "General Myers made an interesting remark in opposing the withdrawal of the US from Iraq. He said that such a development would provide a victory to Al-Qaida and its supporters. In this context, General Myers highlighted the potential danger from having a series of radical Pan-Islamic administrations in this region. . It seems that minds are very confused in the US. The Bush administration

has failed in all of its projections regarding Iraq. The mistakes are countless, and the role designed for Turkey within the BMENA initiative is one of them. . The Bush administration wants us to believe it is conducting a global war against terrorism, but at the same time it provides shelter for the terrorist organization against Turkey that is stationed in northern Iraq. The US talks about the potential risks of having religious-based systems in the area, but at the same time it is projecting Turkey as a 'moderate Islamic state model.' It will not be easy for the US to pull out of Iraq, but it seems it will also be very difficult for US forces to stay. We also need to pay particular attention to the Bush administration's view of Turkey. It is an unhealthy view, which may bring problems for the US as well."

"A Federal Iraq"

Kamuran Ozbir wrote in the nationalist "Ortadogu" (8/29):
"Is Iraq turning into a federal system? Federalism is a democratic method, but nothing is clear as far as the future of Iraq is concerned. . Even if the constitution is approved by the people during the upcoming referendum, the problems will remain. The constitution in its current form has loopholes that will create many problems along the way. The constitution will not help the Shiites and Kurds to act together. Due to its theocratic structure shaped to favor Shiite demands, the Iraqi constitution may lay the ground for the Kurds to split off from Iraq even if it passes at referendum. The continuing violence is another major problem for the future of Iraq. The US may decide to pull out due to the increase in terrorist acts. If so, Iraq may end up as a field of conflict between Shiites and Sunnis. The new constitution in Iraq is not the end of the story. In fact, the genuine struggle in Iraq is beginning right now."

MCELDOWNEY